

Instructor: Catherine Dunlop
History 272 J
Meeting Time: Mondays 1:30-3:20
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Mapping the World

From the Age of Explorers to Google Maps

COURSE SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES:

This history seminar explores the connections between map-making and power in European and imperial contexts. Focusing on recent works of map history and theory, as well as primary sources from Sterling Library's Map Room and the Yale Center for British Art, this course will introduce students to cartography's role in historical encounters. Students will learn about the art and science of map-making at various historical moments and will have the opportunity to experience the rich visual culture of historical maps through hands-on workshops. Class discussions will focus on the role of cartographic knowledge in European state formation, maritime exploration, colonial conquest, and urban social geography. From a theoretical perspective, this course introduces students to the methods and concepts of "global history" through its focus on encounters between western and non-western understandings of space. Bringing our discussion on maps into the contemporary world, the course concludes with a discussion on the politics and culture of digital mapping projects. Students will reflect upon the course's subject matter through their own original research and writing on a historical map or collection of maps of their choice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Midterm Essay (20% of grade): Five-page essay. Critique Graham Burnett's *Masters of All They Surveyed* as a work of "global history." How does Burnett use maps to analyze encounters and power relationships between Europeans and non-Europeans? In your discussion, refer to Geyer and Bright's article on "World History in a Global Age," as well as other theoretical articles from the course reader.

Research Paper (Preparation work: 10% of grade; Essay: 40% of grade; Final Presentation: 10% of grade): A 20-25 page paper on a map or collection of maps of the student's choice. Students are encouraged to select maps from Sterling Library's Map Room and the Yale Center for British Art, although maps may also be found using on-line library databases (consult with me for specific recommendations).

- One-page proposal and bibliography. Each student should meet with me outside of class to discuss the proposed topic. (5%)
- Ten pages of a paper draft. (5%)
- Final presentation in class. (10%)

Participation in Seminar (20% of grade): Active seminar participation is critical to success in the course. Students will post discussion questions and short reading responses onto the classes server the day before the seminar meets.

COURSE MATERIALS

Books (Available at Labyrinth):

Burnett, D. Graham. *Masters of All They Surveyed: Exploration, Geography and a British El Dorado*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.

Gilbert, Pamela K. *Mapping the Victorian Social Body*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2004.

Winichakul, Thongchai. *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1994.

Wilford, John Noble. *The Mapmakers: The Story of Great Pioneers in Cartography—From Antiquity to the Space Age*. London: Pimlico, 2000.

Course Reader: Available at TYCO

Contacts for Final Paper Research: Elisabeth Fairman, Senior Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, Yale Center for British Art (elisabeth.fairman@yale.edu); Margit Kaye, Library Assistant, Sterling Map Room (margit.kaye@yale.edu); Abraham Parrish, Head of Sterling Map Room (abraham.parrish@yale.edu)

Useful Reference Series for Consultation at Sterling:

Harley, J.B. and David Woodward, eds. *The History of Cartography* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987-present).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

September 7: Introduction

Suggested Reading: Christian Jacob, "What is a Map?" in *The Sovereign Map: Theoretical Approaches to Cartography through History* [Reader]

September 14: Scientific Mapping and European State Formation

Reading: Michael Biggs, "Putting the State on the Map: Cartography, Territory, and European State Formation" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. [Reader]

Brian Harley, "Maps, Knowledge and Power" in *The New Nature of Maps*. [Reader]

Brian Harley, "Silences and Secrecy: The Hidden Agenda of Cartography in Early Modern Europe" in *The New Nature of Maps*. [Reader]

September 21: Maps and the Origins of the Modern Border, Primary Source Analysis

Meet in the Map Room. Workshop on copper-plate printing techniques and maps of European states under Absolutist rule.

Reading:

Peter Sahlins, "The Frontiers of the Old Regime State," in *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*. [Reader]

John Noble Wilford, "The Family that Mapped France" in *The Map-makers*

September 28: Mapping the New World: Cartography and European Exploration, Discussion

Reading: Chapters 1-3, Graham D. Burnett, *Masters of All They Surveyed*
Michael Geyer and Charles Bright, "World History in a Global Age" in *American Historical Review*. [Reader]

October 5: Mapping the New World: Cartography and European Exploration, Primary Source Analysis

Meet at the Yale Center for British Art. Workshop on European explorers' maps of the New World.

Reading: Chapters 4-7, Graham D. Burnett, *Masters of All They Surveyed*
Raymond Craib, "Cartography and Power in the Conquest and Creation of New Spain" in *Latin American Research Review*. [Reader]

October 12: Global Comparisons: Encounters between Western and Non-Western Understandings of Space I

Reading: Chapters 1-4, Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation*.

Benedict Anderson, "Census, Map and Museum" in *Imagined Communities*. [Reader]

October 19: Global Comparisons: Encounters between Western and Non-Western Understandings of Space II

Reading: Chapters 5-8, Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation*.

Jeffrey C. Stone, "Imperialism, Colonialism and Cartography." [Reader]

****MIDTERM ESSAY DUE IN CLASS ON OCTOBER 19****

October 26: Maps and the Colonial Competition for Land, Primary Source Analysis

Meet at the Yale Center for British Art. Primary source workshop on European maps and travel accounts from Africa.

Reading: Jane Caruthers, "Friedrich Jeppe: Mapping the Transvaal c. 1850-1899" in *Journal of South African Studies*. [Reader]

Thomas Bassett, "Cartography and Empire-Building in Nineteenth-Century West Africa" in *Geographical Review*. [On-line]

****ONE PAGE RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL, ALONG WITH A LIST OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES, DUE IN CLASS ON OCTOBER 26****

November 2: Global Comparisons: Encounters between Western and Non-Western Understandings of Space III

Peter Nabokov, "Orientations from Their Side: Dimensions of Native American Cartographic Discourse" in G. Malcolm Lewis, ed., *Cartographic Encounters: Perspectives on Native American Map-Making and Map Use* [Reader]

Sumathi Ramaswamy, "Maps and Mother Goddesses in Modern India" in *Imago Mundi*. [Reader]

John Noble Wilford, "Soldiers, Pundits and the India Survey," "Mapping America: the Boundary Makers," and "Mapping America: Westward the Topographers" (Chapters 11-13) in *The Mapmakers*

****INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH ME ON PAPER TOPICS SCHEDULED ON NOVEMBER 2 AND NOVEMBER 4****

November 9: Mapping Urban Spaces in European and Imperial Contexts I, Discussion

Reading: Pamela K. Gilbert, *Mapping the Victorian Social Body*

November 16: Mapping Urban Spaces in European and Imperial Contexts II, Primary Source Analysis

Meet in the Map Room. Primary source workshop on city plans from across the globe.

****TEN PAGES OF RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT DUE IN CLASS ON NOVEMBER 16****

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November 30: Where do we go from here? Mapping in the Digital Age

Reading: Jeremy Crampton, "The History of Internet Mapping" and "Being Virtually There" in *The Political Mapping of Cyberspace*. [Reader]

J.B. Harley, "Can there be a Cartographic Ethic?" in *The New Nature of Maps*. [Reader]

Mei-Po Kwan, "Feminist Visualization: Re-envisioning GIS as a Method in Feminist Geographical Research" [Hand-out]

Suggested Reading: Christian Jacob, "The Cartographic Image" in *The Sovereign Map: Theoretical Approaches to Cartography through History*. [Reader]

Visit on-line discussion forums: googlemapsapi.blogspot.com, googlemapsmania.blogspot.com, google-latlong.blogspot.com

December 7: Presentations of Papers

Concluding discussion and presentations of research topics.

****IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS. USE OF DIGITAL IMAGES OR POWERPOINT IS ENCOURAGED****

****FINAL PAPERS DUE IN MY BOX ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HALL OF GRADUATE STUDIES (HGS) BY 5:00PM ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16. BE SURE TO ATTACH PAPER COPIES OF MAP IMAGES TO YOUR PAPER.****